

LUC-466/ Florkey 16-10-24

2

**AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS**RECEIVED  
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1           1.       (Previously presented) An apparatus, comprising:  
2           one or more provisioning components that run on a hardware component, the  
3           one or more provisioning components being operable to initiate requests to port a  
4           directory number for a duration of time, receive updates for one or more directory  
5           numbers ported to a network, and notify a subscriber database of the directory number  
6           to port for the duration of time; and  
7           a portability component that runs on a hardware component automatically  
8           updates the one or more provisioning components to port the directory number for the  
9           duration of time; wherein the portability component communicates with a management  
10          component through employment of one or more protocols to update one or more local  
11          number portability databases, at least one of the one or more protocols being a Simple  
12          Network Management Protocol (SNMP).

1           2.       (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein upon initiation of  
2           a request to port the directory number, the portability component receives one or more  
3           identifiers associated with the one or more provisioning components; and  
4           wherein the portability component employs the one or more identifiers to notify  
5           the one or more provisioning components of the request to port the directory number for  
6           the duration of time.

LUC-466/ Florkey 16-10-24

3

1           3.     (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the request to  
2 port the directory number comprises an association between the directory number and a  
3 location routing number; and

4                 wherein upon initiation of the request to port the directory number, the portability  
5 component provides the association to the management component; and

6                 wherein the management component provides the association to the one or more  
7 local number portability databases associated with the one or more provisioning  
8 components; and

9                 wherein one or more network components associated with the one or more  
10 provisioning components and the one or more local number portability databases  
11 cooperate to provide and/or terminate service for the directory number for the duration  
12 of time based on the association.

1           4.     (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the one or more  
2 provisioning components comprise a ported-from provisioning component and a ported-  
3 to provisioning component, and wherein the one or more identifiers associated with the  
4 one or more provisioning components comprise a first identifier associated with the  
5 ported-from provisioning component and a second identifier associated with the ported-  
6 to provisioning component; and

7                 wherein the directory number is associated with a telephony device, and wherein  
8 the portability component communicates with the ported-from provisioning component  
9 through employment of the first identifier to terminate service for the telephony device  
10 for the duration of time; and

LUC-466/ Florkey 16-10-24

4

11 wherein the portability component communicates with the ported-to provisioning  
12 component through employment of the second identifier to provide service for the  
13 telephony device for the duration of time.

1 5. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the ported-from  
2 provisioning component is associated with a first service provider, and wherein the  
3 ported-to provisioning component is associated with a second service provider; and  
4 wherein the portability component cooperates with the ported-from provisioning  
5 component and the ported-to provisioning component to port the directory number from  
6 the first service provider to the second service provider for the duration of time.

1 6. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the ported-from  
2 provisioning component provides a first set of services to the telephony device, and  
3 wherein the ported-to provisioning component provides a second set of services to the  
4 telephony device; and

5 wherein the portability component cooperates with the ported-from provisioning  
6 component to terminate access to the first set of services by the telephony device for  
7 the duration of time; and

8 wherein the portability component cooperates with the ported-to provisioning  
9 component to provide access to the second set of services by the telephony device for  
10 the duration of time.

1 7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein upon expiration of the  
2 duration of time, the portability component in combination with the one or more  
3 provisioning components port the directory number back to an initial state.

LUC-466/ Florkey 16-10-24

5

1           8.       (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the one or more  
2 provisioning components comprise a ported-from provisioning component and a ported-  
3 to provisioning component; and

4           wherein the ported-to provisioning component initiates a request to the portability  
5 component to port the directory number for the duration of time; and

6           wherein upon receipt of the request to port the directory number, the portability  
7 component notifies the ported-from provisioning component of the request to port the  
8 directory number.

1           9.       (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

2           a subscriber database that comprises a subscriber entry for the directory  
3 number;

4           wherein the portability component and the ported-from provisioning component  
5 cooperate to change the subscriber entry in the subscriber database from the initial  
6 state to a ported state; and

7           wherein the subscriber database and a switch component cooperate to terminate  
8 service at the network for a telephony device associated with the directory number.

1           10.     (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein upon expiration  
2 of the duration of time, the portability component and the ported-from provisioning  
3 component cooperate to change the subscriber entry in the subscriber database from  
4 the ported state to the initial state; and

LUC-466/ Florkey 16-10-24

6

5 wherein the subscriber database and the switch component cooperate to restart  
6 the service at the network for the telephony device associated with the directory  
7 number.

1 11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the subscriber database and  
2 the switch component cooperate to notify one or more callers to the directory number of  
3 the expiration of the duration of time to port the directory number.

1 12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the subscriber database and  
2 the switch component cooperate to notify a user of the telephony device associated with  
3 the directory number of a period of time remaining until the expiration of the duration of  
4 time to port the directory number.

1 13. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein one of the one  
2 or more provisioning components initiates a request to port the directory number for the  
3 duration of time, and wherein the request comprises a value for the duration of time, the  
4 apparatus further comprising:

5 a timer component that determines an expiration of the duration of time to port  
6 the directory number based on the value for the duration of time;

7 wherein upon the expiration of the duration of time to port the directory number,  
8 the portability component and the timer component cooperate to port the directory  
9 number back to an initial state.

LUC-466/ Florkey 16-10-24

7

1           14. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein upon the  
2 expiration of the duration of time to port the directory number, the timer component  
3 sends to the portability component a notification of the expiration of the duration of time  
4 and the directory number; and

5           wherein upon receipt of the notification from the timer component, the portability  
6 component employs the directory number to notify the one or more provisioning  
7 components of the expiration of the duration of time associated with the directory  
8 number; and

9           wherein the one or more provisioning components port the directory number  
10 back to the initial state.

1           15. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the value for  
2 the duration of time comprises a first value for the duration of time; and

3           wherein upon receipt of a request to reset the value for the duration of time, the  
4 portability component provides a second value for the duration of time to the timer  
5 component; and

6           wherein the timer component employs the second value for the duration of time  
7 to determine the expiration of the duration of time.

LUC-466/ Florkey 16-10-24

8

1           16. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the portability  
2 component comprises one or more interfaces with the one or more provisioning  
3 components, and wherein the portability component employs the one or more interfaces  
4 to receive one or more identifiers associated with the one or more provisioning  
5 components and a value for the duration of time from the one or more provisioning  
6 components.

1           17. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the portability  
2 component stores an association between the directory number and one or more  
3 location routing numbers, and wherein a telephony device associated with the directory  
4 number receives service associated with the location routing number; and  
5           wherein upon an expiration of the duration of time, the portability component  
6 removes the association between the directory number and the location routing number,  
7 and wherein the telephony device receives service associated with the directory number  
8 and/or one of the one or more location routing numbers.

1           18. (Previously presented) A method, comprising the step of:  
2           automatically updating, via a portability component that runs on a hardware  
3 component, one or more provisioning components to port a directory number for a  
4 duration of time, wherein the one or more provisioning components initiate requests to  
5 port the directory number for a duration of time, receive updates for one or more  
6 directory numbers ported to a network, and notifies a subscriber database of the  
7 directory number to port for the duration of time; and

LUC-466/ Florkey 16-10-24

9

8 communicating with a management component through employment of one or  
9 more protocols to update one or more local number portability databases, at least one  
10 of the one or more protocols being a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP).

1 19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of  
2 automatically updating, via a portability component that runs on a hardware component,  
3 the one or more provisioning components to port the directory number for the duration  
4 of time comprises the steps of:

5 receiving a request to port the directory number, wherein the request comprises  
6 one or more identifiers associated with the one or more provisioning components, a  
7 value for the duration of time, and an association between the directory number and a  
8 location routing number;

9 providing the association to one or more of the one or more provisioning  
10 components through employment of one or more of the one or more identifiers upon  
11 receipt of the request;

12 setting a ported-out flag associated with the directory number;

13 determining an expiration of the duration of time through employment of the  
14 value for the duration of time;

15 notifying one or more of the one or more provisioning components through  
16 employment of one or more of the one or more identifiers upon the expiration of the  
17 duration of time; and

18 clearing the ported-out flag associated with the directory number upon the  
19 expiration of the duration of time.



LUC-466/ Florkey 16-10-24

10

1           20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein a first  
2 provisioning component of the one or more provisioning components is associated with  
3 a first service provider, and wherein a second provisioning component of the one or  
4 more provisioning components is associated with a second service provider, and  
5 wherein the step of clearing the ported-out flag associated with the directory number  
6 upon the expiration of the duration of time, the method further comprising the steps of:

7           porting the directory number from a network of the first service provider to a  
8 network of the second service provider;

9           terminating service for a telephony device associated with the directory number  
10 on the network of the first service provider;

11           providing service for the telephony device on the network of the second service  
12 provider;

13           receiving a notification of the expiration of the duration of time;

14           porting the directory number from the network of the first service provider to the  
15 network of the second service provider;

16           terminating service for the telephony device associated with the directory number  
17 with the second service provider; and

18           providing a message indicating the expiration of the duration of time to a user of  
19 the telephony device associated with the directory number.

1           21. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium having  
2 computer executable instructions for performing steps, comprising:

LUC-466/ Florkey 16-10-24

11

3 means in the computer-readable storage medium for automatically updating one  
4 or more provisioning components to port a directory number for a duration of time,  
5 wherein the one or more provisioning components initiate requests to port the directory  
6 number for a duration of time, receive updates for one or more directory numbers ported  
7 to a network, and notifies a subscriber database of the directory number to port for the  
8 duration of time; and

9 means in the computer-readable storage medium for communicating with a  
10 management component through employment of one or more protocols to update one  
11 or more local number portability databases, at least one of the one or more protocols  
12 being a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP).

1 22. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a value for the  
2 duration of time comprises a period of time.

1 23. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a value for the  
2 duration of time comprises a permanent status.

1 24. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a value for the  
2 duration of time comprises a date in the future.

1 25. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one  
2 of the one or more protocols is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) or the Simple Network  
3 Management Protocol (SNMP).

LUC-466/ Florkey 16-10-24

12

1           26. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the portability  
2 component and one or more networks communicate through employment of a [[the]]  
3 Session Initiation Protocol (SIP), an Internet Standard-41 (IS-41), or an Advanced  
4 Intelligence Network (AIN).

1           27. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the telephony  
2 device is a personal computer.

1           28. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the telephony  
2 device is a wired telephone.

1           29. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the telephony  
2 device is a wireless telephone.

1           30. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the portability component  
2 communicates with the management component to initiate one or more notifications of  
3 an expiration of the duration of time.

1           31. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the portability component  
2 comprises a magnetic or an optical storage medium.

1           32. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the portability component  
2 comprises a biological or an atomic data storage medium.

1